

УДК 343.985.2:004:159.9-058.5



<https://doi.org/10.33994/kndise.2026.71.11>

Gediminas Buciuнас

Ph.D. in Law,

Associate Professor at the Law Faculty of Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania

Professor at the Public Security Academy of Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania

Professor at the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities of Klaipeda University, Klaipeda, Lithuania



<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1826-0527>

gediminas.buciuнас@vdu.lt

gediminas1967@mruni.eu

TECHNOLOGICAL PART OF THE EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING OF SOCIALLY VULNERABLE PERSONS

To cite this article: Buciuнас G. (2026). Technological part of the effective investigative interviewing of socially vulnerable persons. *Criminalistics and Forensics*, 71, 158-171. doi: <https://doi.org/10.33994/kndise.2026.71.11>

At the beginning of all experimental work stands the choice of the appropriate technique of investigation

Walter Rudolf Hess [1]

The author of this paper is going to focus on the technological part of investigative interviewing of a child who belongs to a socially vulnerable group of persons. A child may be a witness, a victim, or a suspect in the criminal proceedings. Due to young age and ongoing cognitive, mental, and emotional development, the investigative interviewing process must be conducted in the most effective manner that allows them not to harm the child's psyche. In each situation the Hippocratic principle is applicable: "to help or at least to do no harm" (*primum non nocere*) during investigative interviewing. The above-mentioned principle mandates investigators from pre-trial investigative bodies, prosecutors, and pre-trial investigating judges to avoid causing harm to participants in the criminal proceedings, namely in the given academic paper – a child to be victimized. The Hippocratic principle prevents a child from being harmed again after a previous, often similar, experience of victimization.

For example, in child sexual abuse cases. The author of this paper would like to pay attention to the technological part of investigative interviewing. Namely, in choosing the proper premises for conducting investigative actions in the future, acoustics and interior design of the premises, use of the microphone, and placement of audio and video recording devices and speakers.

So, the author is going to analyze the premises, interior design of the premises, and equipment for communication and recording from the point of view of protecting a child from revictimization. The author is of the opinion that the technological part plays the same role in the success of pre-trial investigation as the proper performance of all legal procedures during investigative interviewing prescribed by the criminal procedure code and other legal acts. The author shares his observations obtained during his performance of the prosecutor's functions when he oversaw organization, direction, and supervision of the pre-trial investigations related to the crimes committed against children or the crimes committed by children in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. Due to assigned tasks, the author took part at the pre-trial investigation stage during investigative interviewing of the children conducted by the judges in the court, mainly victims who suffered sexual violence. The interview procedure of a child is regulated in detail by the criminal procedure code and standard operation procedures approved by the order of the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Lithuania. It creates an illusion that the rights of the child victim, child witness, and child suspect are protected and there is no way for revictimization. Although, once more, practice proves that detailed and precious legal regulation of an investigative interviewing procedure of a vulnerable group of human beings can't have stopped them from becoming a victim yet again. Questions may arise. Why? What are the reasons standing behind it? The answer to the above-mentioned questions is simple. Technical specifications of equipment in use during an investigative interviewing, location of the courthouse building, interview room location in the building, acoustics of the premises, interior design of the premises, choosing unsuitable microphones for the communication, and bad location for installation of the video-audio equipment for recording an interview may create suitable conditions for secondary victimization.

Keywords: child, criminal proceeding, pre-trial investigation stage, investigative interviewing, revictimization, technological part of investigative interviewing.

Гедімінас Бучюнас

Доктор юридичних наук, доцент юридичного факультету
Університету Вітовта Великого, Каунас, Литва

Професор Академії громадської безпеки Університету

Миколаса Ромеріса, Вільнюс, Литва

Професор факультету соціальних і гуманітарних наук

Клайпедського університету, Клайпеда, Литва



<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1826-0527>

gediminas.buciunas@vdu.lt

gediminas1967@mruni.eu

ТЕХНОЛОГІЧНА СКЛАДОВА ЕФЕКТИВНОГО СЛІДЧОГО ІНТЕРВ'ЮВАННЯ СОЦІАЛЬНО ВРАЗЛИВИХ ОСІБ

Бібліографічний опис статті: Бучюнас, Г. (2026). Технологічна складова ефективного слідчого інтерв'ювання соціально вразливих осіб. Криміналістика та судова експертиза, 71, 158-171. doi: <https://doi.org/10.33994/kndise.2026.71.11>

У цій статті автор зосереджує увагу на технологічній складовій слідчого інтерв'ювання дитини, яка належить до соціально вразливої групи осіб. У кримінальному провадженні дитина може виступати свідком, потерпілим або підозрюваним. З огляду на малолітній або неповнолітній вік, а також триваючий когнітивний, психічний та емоційний розвиток, процес слідчого інтерв'ювання має здійснюватися у максимально ефективний спосіб, що дозволяє уникнути травмування психіки дитини. У кожній такій ситуації під час слідчого інтерв'ювання є застосовним Гіппократів принцип: «допомогти або принаймні не зашкодити» (*primum non nocere*). Вищезазначений принцип зобов'язує слідчих органів досудового розслідування, прокурорів та слідчих суддів уникати заподіяння шкоди учасникам кримінального провадження — зокрема, у контексті цієї наукової статті, дитині, яка може зазнати віктимізації. Гіппократів принцип запобігає повторному травмуванню дитини після вже пережитого, часто аналогічного досвіду віктимізації (наприклад, у справах про сексуальне насильство над дітьми). Автор статті прагне повернути увагу до технологічної складової слідчого інтерв'ювання. А саме: до вибору належних приміщень для проведення процесуальних дій у майбутньому, їхньої акустики та дизайну інтер'єру, використання мікрофонів, а також розміщення засобів аудіо-, відеозапису та динаміків. Відтак, автор аналізує приміщення, їхній інтер'єр та обладнання для зв'язку й фіксації з погляду захисту дитини від ревіктимізації. Автор переконаний, що технологічна складова відіграє таку ж важливу роль у забезпеченні успіху досудового розслідування, як і належне виконання всіх правових процедур під час слідчого інтерв'ювання,

передбачених кримінальним процесуальним кодексом та іншими нормативно-правовими актами. Автор ділиться спостереженнями, здобутими під час виконання функцій прокурора, коли він здійснював організацію, керівництво та нагляд за досудовими розслідуваннями злочинів, вчинених проти дітей або дітьми на території Литовської Республіки. Відповідно до покладених завдань, автор брав участь на стадії досудового розслідування у слідчих інтерв'юваннях дітей, які проводилися суддями в суді (переважно йшлося про потерпілих від сексуального насильства). Процедура інтерв'ювання дитини детально регламентована кримінальним процесуальним кодексом та стандартними операційними процедурами, затвердженими наказом Генерального прокурора Литовської Республіки. Це створює ілюзію того, що права дитини-потерпілого, дитини-свідка чи дитини-підозрюваного надійно захищені, а ревіктимізація є неможливою. Проте практика вкотре доводить, що навіть детальне та ретельне правове регулювання процедури слідчого інтерв'ювання вразливої групи осіб саме по собі не здатне запобігти тому, щоб вони знову стали жертвами. Постають питання: Чому так відбувається? Які причини за цим стоять? Відповідь на вищезгадані питання проста. Технічні характеристики обладнання, що використовується під час слідчого інтерв'ювання, розташування будівлі суду, розміщення кімнати для інтерв'ю в цій будівлі, акустика приміщення, дизайн його інтер'єру, вибір невідповідних мікрофонів для зв'язку та невдале розташування аудіо- та відеоапаратури для запису інтерв'ю можуть створити умови, сприятливі для вторинної віктимізації.

Ключові слова: дитина, кримінальне провадження, стадія досудового розслідування, слідче інтерв'ювання, ревіктимізація, технологічна складова слідчого інтерв'ювання.

The one who knows all the answers has not been asked all the questions

Confucius [2]

The main source of data/evidence in criminal proceedings is testimony obtained during the conduction of investigative interviewing. That is one of the most popular instruments to obtain information during a structured interview of a witness, a victim and a suspect. During the conduction of the investigative action, authorized officials should be guided by the norms of national legislation and international law, as well as consider the best international practices. The author of this paper is going to present specifics of an investigative interviewing socially vulnerable persons at the court during the pre-trial investigation stage in the Republic of Lithuania. The focus of this paper is the technological part of the effective investigative interviewing. Due to the rapid development of new technologies in the XXI century, the appearance

of **state-of-art** technologies in the conservative field of criminal justice, such as criminal proceedings, brought huge challenges for practitioners and theorists. According to the Cambridge dictionary, the term "**state-of-the-art**" means *very modern and using the most recent ideas and methods* [3]. So, it leads to the conclusion that the landscape of investigative interviewing as one of the main investigative actions is undergoing a significant transformation. The days when investigative interviewing relied solely on handwritten notes and in-person conversations have already passed. Today, new technologies have become an integral part of criminal proceedings, offering new tools and methods that can enhance the accuracy and efficiency of pre-trial investigations, also decreasing the risk of re-victimization of socially vulnerable persons during criminal proceedings. One of the most significant technological advancements in investigative interviews is the widespread use of video and audio recording, using a real-time, two-way audio and video communication system allowing remote participants to interact. It aims to make the conduction of investigative actions a more effective way and protect the witnesses and victims from secondary victimization. The Palermo Convention against Transnational Organized Crime encourages use of technology to enhance international cooperation, including the use of videoconferencing for extradition and witness testimony. For example, article 24, Protection of Witnesses, of the above-mentioned Convention states that *1. Each State Party shall take appropriate measures within its means to provide effective protection from potential retaliation or intimidation for witnesses in criminal proceedings who give testimony concerning offences covered by this Convention and, as appropriate, for their relatives and other persons close to them. 2. The measures envisaged in paragraph 1 of this article may include, inter alia, without prejudice to the rights of the defendant, including the right to due process: (a) Establishing procedures for the physical protection of such persons, such as, to the extent necessary and feasible, relocating them and permitting, where appropriate, non-disclosure or limitations on the disclosure of information concerning the identity and whereabouts of such persons; (b) Providing evidentiary rules to permit witness testimony to be given in a manner that ensures the safety of the witness, such as permitting testimony to be given **through the use of communications technology such as video links or other adequate means*** [4].

Remote investigative interviewing provides a safer and more comfortable environment for certain interviewees, such as victims and witnesses at court hearings. Being at some distance from a law offender or a suspect helps a socially vulnerable person feel more at ease, more relaxed, compared with direct contact at the court hearings during an interview in the same courtroom where a suspect or an accused person is presented. As technology continues to shape the field of investigative interviewing, it is important to know about technical and techno-

logical parts of the investigative action. Skilled interviewers may bring empathy, intuition, and the ability to adapt their approach based on the victim's responses, although ignorance of the peculiarities of the functioning of the advanced devices may lead to failure of the investigative interviewing or even the revictimization of a child.

The main legal document – the constitutions of many countries – contains a provision for the protection of a human being's dignity. For example, Article 21 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania states that *the person of the human being shall be inviolable. The dignity of the human being shall be protected by law. It shall be prohibited to torture, injure a human being, degrade his dignity, subject him to cruel treatment as well as establish such punishments* [5].

The author of this paper is going to analyze how the technological part of investigative interviewing can impact the main principle of a child interview set up in criminal procedure laws. Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states: *A child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier* [6]. International and national legal acts set up additional safeguards for protecting a child during criminal proceedings. For example, Paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that *in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration* [6]. Another important international legal act on a child interview procedure is the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention). The Preamble of the Convention states that *the well-being and best interests of children are fundamental values* [7]. The above-mentioned Lanzarote Convention drew attention to the technological part of the investigative interviewing – the proper premises. It directly states that interviews must be conducted **in specially equipped and attached rooms**. For example, Article 35 of the Lanzarote Convention states that *1. Each party shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure: (a) that the child is interviewed without undue delay, immediately after the facts have been reported to the competent authorities; (b) interviewing the child, if necessary, in a specially equipped and attached room; (c) interviewing the child by a person specially trained for this purpose; (d) conducting all surveys of the child by the same persons, where possible and where appropriate; (e) as few surveys as possible and as much as is necessary for the purposes of criminal proceedings; (f) the possibility of accompanying the child by his legal representative or, where appropriate, by an adult whom he chooses, unless a reasoned decision to the contrary is made in respect of that person. 2. Each Party shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that all interviews with the victim or,*

where appropriate, those with a child witness, may be videotaped and that these videotaped interviews may be accepted as evidence during the court proceedings, according to the rules provided by its internal law [7].

Article 186 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Lithuania set up the following rules for minor witness and victim investigative interviewing. It states: 1. *A minor witness or a minor victim shall be questioned by the pre-trial judge in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 184(3), (4), (5) of this Code, when his representative, the public prosecutor or the defense counsel requests it in the interests of the child, or in the cases provided for in Article 184(1) of this Code.* 2. *A minor witness or a minor victim shall be questioned during a pre-trial investigation in premises adapted for the questioning of children and, as a rule, not more than once. In cases where it is necessary to re-interview a minor witness or a minor victim during a pre-trial investigation, they shall normally be interviewed by the same person. A video and audio recording shall be made of their questioning. A minor witness and a minor victim shall be summoned to the hearing only in exceptional cases.* 3. *The examination of a minor witness or a minor victim at all times, as well as the examination of a minor witness or a minor victim in connection with offences against human life, health, liberty, freedom and inviolability of sexual decision, child and family, profiting from prostitution of a minor, or involvement of a minor in prostitution, or in any other cases, when requested by the parties to the proceedings or on the initiative of the pre-trial investigation officer, the public prosecutor or the pre-trial judge, a psychologist must be invited to assist in the questioning of the minor, taking into account the minor's socio-psychological maturity, as well as a representative of the State authority for the protection of the rights of the child, who shall observe from a different room to check that the rights of the witness or the victim of the proceedings are not being infringed during the questioning of a minor. ...4. *The suspect and other participants in the proceedings, except for the psychologist and the representative of the minor witness or the minor victim, shall not be allowed to be present in the room where the interview is being conducted. In such a case, an audio-visual recording must be made and the suspect and other participants in the proceedings must be able to observe and hear the interrogation from another room and to ask questions of the person being interrogated through the pre-trial judge [8].**

“Minor” is a legal term used to refer to people who have not yet reached the age of majority – eighteen years. So, the term “minor” falls under the legal definition of a “child” umbrella. An important standard of the victim-oriented approach aims to protect a child from secondary victimization during an investigative interview. Victims do not have to immerse themselves in traumatic memories more than once without urgent procedural need. Although reality sometimes differs from legal

rules that regulate the conduction of an investigative interviewing.

The author is of the opinion that the whole investigative interviewing action as an active, vibrant process may be relatively split into the following parts:

- 1) the legal part strictly prescribed by the law,
- 2) organizational-logistical (summons to court, arrival of a victim, a witness, or a suspect to the court or the place of investigative interviewing, etc.),
- 3) technical,
- 4) forensic,
- 5) technological parts.

Each of the above-mentioned parts of the investigative interviewing plays an important role in achieving the aim of criminal procedure - to ensure a fair, legal and efficient process for investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating criminal offenses. At the same time, it protects participants of a criminal proceeding from revictimization. The forensic part of investigative interviewing focuses on a structured, non-adversarial, and evidence-based approach, commonly known as the PEACE model. It is designed to gather reliable information rather than force confessions. Technical, forensic, and technological parts are closely intertwined, and analysis of each above-mentioned part may be an object of separate research and a separate topic for academic discussions.

The author of this academic paper is an acting prosecutor and participated many times as a prosecutor during the children's investigative interviewing procedures conducted by the pre-trial investigation judges at first-instance courts in the Republic of Lithuania. Part of this paper is personal observation done by the author. The **novelty of this study** is that the technological part of investigative interviewing wasn't the object of analysis of the *Manual on International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict* [9], *Manual on Investigative Interviewing for Criminal Investigation* [10], *Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering* [11], *A brief introduction to investigative interviewing A practitioner's guide* [12], *The Cambridge Handbook of Forensic Psychology* [13], *The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Protocol* [14], *Criminalistics: Tactics and Methodology: A Textbook* [15], *Preliminary Investigation: Procedural, Forensic, and Practical Aspects. Training Tool. Second Edition* [16], *Murad Code* [17], *Methodological recommendations for organizing work with children according to the "Green Room" method for investigators and juvenile police officers* [18].

A pre-trial investigator or prosecutor has two options when it comes to making decisions in the form of conducting the investigative interviewing of the victims or the witnesses: 1) bring them into specially equipped premises and record their testimonies; 2) just record their testimonies remotely over a phone or video conversation. Remote or onsite investigative interviewing comes with its *pros* and *cons* in terms of con-

venience during criminal proceedings.

The author of this paper is going to analyze onsite interviews from the point of view of the best interest of children through the lenses of practitioners. An onsite interview contains some elements of a remote interview due to the simple fact that an interviewee is on separate premises during the investigative interviewing. At the same time, other participants of the criminal proceedings are on another premises. They have the right to ask questions through an official who conducts an investigative interviewing. For example, a pre-trial investigating judge conducts investigative interviewing in the Republic of Lithuania. In a given case, all questions have to be given to an interviewee only by an investigative judge (the author's notice – according to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Lithuania, a pre-trial investigating judge is a passive participant in criminal proceedings and may be involved in the procedure only if one of the participants of the criminal case initiated it through the submission of a request to a first instance court to conduct the investigative interviewing at the court (the author's note: it is not applicable for a child interview. It must be done in court). The principle of the best interests of a child must be followed during the criminal proceedings. It means that pre-trial investigation bodies, prosecutors, and judges should take all possible and necessary steps to prevent a child from revictimization. It leads us to the next provision of criminal procedure law that states that an investigative interviewing should be conducted only one time through all stages of criminal proceedings set up by both international and national laws.

The author of this paper would like to highlight the importance of technological parts of an investigative interviewing, that hugely impact the legal part of the interviewing procedure and protection of the rights of the victims and witnesses. The success of a child's investigative interviewing depends on many different factors by its nature, including the technical specifications related to the premises designed for the interview, interior design of premises, technical equipment in use, etc.

Requirements for a premises to conduct an investigative interviewing in compliance with the highest standards on preventing a child revictimization

The author would like to raise a simple question. Do we have clear rules describing requirements for an interview room, entrance to it, and its location in the institution's building? The legal acts just set up a provision that investigative action – an investigative interviewing of a child - must be conducted in the **specialty equipped and attached rooms**. International and national lawmakers leave it to practitioners and the academic community to fill up that gap. Let's start from the premises. Based on the author's personal observation and notes done during

participation in the numerous investigative interviews of the children at the first instance courts of the Republic of Lithuania, the following findings are made. **Firstly**, the premises for the conduction of investigative interviewing must be in a calm area of the building, located far from the noisy streets and other noisy places, and if possible, with a good panoramic view. **Secondly**, the entrance to the court premises and interview rooms must protect the victim from revictimization before investigative interviewing starts. The location of the entrance to the premises should create secure zones that allow a victim or witness child to avoid any contact with other participants of criminal proceedings, mainly with suspects or accused persons on his/her way to and from the interview room and around it, including visual contact. It is recommended to have the restroom next to or in proximity to the interview room. It has sometimes happened during interviews that a child needs to visit the restroom. **Thirdly**, the interior design of the premises should focus on enhancing functionality and aesthetics for conducting a child interview. Key elements include space planning, lighting, color, texture, and furniture to ensure a comfortable and safe environment for the participants in criminal proceedings, mainly for children in the context of this research paper. Effective design balances aesthetic appeal with operational efficiency. Another important issue for interior design is the interview room itself: size and dimension of the premise designed for the investigative interviewing, acoustics of the premise, color of walls, floors, and ceiling; lighting; soundproofing of premises; furniture, etc. An effective acoustic of the premises should create the right and comfortable conditions for the interview. The color of walls should be chosen to be painted during the installation of the interview room in consultation with experts in psychology. The color of an area significantly impacts the psychological status of the participant in criminal proceedings by influencing mood, emotion, and behavior. For example, cool colors, particularly blue, reduce stress. *'Light is more light (licht mehr licht)' said the famous German philosopher Goethe. This is one of the most succinct words explaining that life means light [19]. Functional imaging and psychometric assessments indicate that light can affect mood, alertness/attention, and cognitive performance in humans [20].*

Another essential element for onsite investigative interviewing is a technical specification of a microphone. The author of this paper would like to highlight the importance of a microphone during the investigative interviewing of a child. There are many kinds of microphones. They can be classified into two categories: directional and omnidirectional. Directional microphones pick up sound from a specific direction, while omnidirectional microphones capture sound from all around. Each kind of microphone has its own advantages and disadvantages. Directional microphones are better for isolating the interviewee's voice from background noise and unwanted sounds coming from different sources of noise. For example, to prevent noise going into the interview room

from the noisy street. The above-mentioned kind of microphone requires one to be close to an interviewee. *Omnidirectional microphones are more versatile and flexible, but they can also pick up unwanted sounds and create an echo* [21]. Due to the interview room size, specifics of the functioning microphone (*the author's notice – a microphone catches or does not catch unwanted sounds and echo effects in the premise*) during the interview of a child on circumstances of sexual violence could hardly be understandable by an investigating judge or other participants, including a suspect. It leads to the following steps – to ask a victim to repeat the same part of testimony once more and once more the same thing several times in a row. It creates huge stress for a child [22, p. 14-17]. Why do a police official, a prosecutor, a judge, a suspect or accused person, or their defense lawyers ask the same question several times? The answer is in paragraph 3, article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. It states that *everyone charged with a criminal offense has the following minimum rights. (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him* [23]. The European Court on Human Rights in case *Al-Khawaja and Tahery v. the United Kingdom* (2011), § 118 states that *the admissibility of evidence is a matter for regulation by national law and the national courts, the Court's only concern under Articles 6 § 1 and 3 (d) of the Convention is to examine whether the proceedings have been conducted fairly* [24]. The European Court on Human Rights in cases *Hümmer v. Germany* (2012), § 38; *Lucà v. Italy* 2001, § 39; *Solakov v. the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (2001), § 57, state that *pursuant to article 6 § 3 (d), before an accused can be convicted, all evidence against him must normally be produced in his presence at a public hearing with a view to adversarial argument* [25, 26, 27].

Criminal proceedings concerning sexual offenses are often conceived as an inquisition by a victim. The choice of the proper kind of microphone to use during an interview with a child, the peculiarities of the interview room, and acoustic effects have an enormous effect on a victim's mental health. It also can be considered revictimization done officially by a pre-trial investigating judge, a police investigator, or a prosecutor. Placement of an audio and video recording device should be in a place that does not attract or disturb the interviewee in the courtroom or interview room located on the premises of a law enforcement agency or other institution. Before the investigative interviewing action starts, the judge must inform all participants that an investigative action is going to record according to the provisions prescribed by the national law. Optimal placement for recording devices requires positioning cameras at eye level for flattering framing and should cover the full picture of an interviewee and an interviewer during investigative interviewing. The video camera should be placed on a stable surface. A judge or prosecutor also must consider the lighting covering the exact location of the

video camera. It aims to avoid glare or creating silhouettes during video recording of an investigative action. The author would like to recommend putting a recording device inside a soft, stuffed toy. For example, inside a teddy bear for the reasons mentioned above.

Courtrooms often present challenging acoustic environments for technicians and experts in acoustics due to their architectural design and size. The author recommends that speakers should be placed in the courtroom only after consultations with an expert on acoustics. Speakers are commonly installed on ceilings or on walls. Although places for installation, the speakers must be chosen meticulously after numerous experiments to find the best place that allows us to distribute sound across the courtroom and to avoid dead zones or echoing. If a suspect or accused person, based on a risk assessment done by provisions prescribed by law, is placed inside a glass box, speakers and a microphone should be placed inside the glass box. The author's note: There is another premise where a pre-trial investigating judge and other participants in investigative actions, except a child and a psychologist, are going to conduct an investigative interviewing in another room. A clear and natural sound reduces fatigue for listeners, supports effective communication, and protects a victim against revictimization. This study's finding leads to summing up the outcome.

Conclusion. Properly chosen premises, interior design of the interview room, and technical equipment are essential preconditions for a successful investigative interviewing of a child who suffered from sexual violence or other criminal offenses committed against him/her because they create a trauma-informed environment that fosters communication and directly prevents revictimization by reducing further psychological distress.

References:

1. Investigation Quotes. (n.d.). URL: <https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/investigation.html> (accessed: 04.03.2026) [in English].
2. 15 Great Quotes About Questioning. (n.d.). URL: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/15-great-quotes-questioning-joe-iarocci> (accessed: 06.03.2026) [in English].
3. Cambridge Dictionary. (n.d.). State-of-the-art. URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/state-of-the-art> (accessed: 09.03.2026) [in English].
4. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (Palermo Convention). (2000). URL: https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a_res_55/res5525e.pdf (accessed: 11.03.2026) [in English].
5. The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. (2006). URL: https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Lithuania_2006 (accessed: 13.03.2026) [in English].
6. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. (1989). URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child> (accessed: 16.03.2026) [in English].
7. The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against

Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention). (2007). URL: <https://rm.coe.int/1680084822> (accessed: 18.03.2026) [in English].

8. A Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Lithuania. (n.d.). URL: <https://www.infolex.lt/ta/10708:str186>(accessed: 20.03.2026) [in English].

9. International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict. 2nd ed. (2017). URL: https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/report/international-protocol-on-the-documentation-and-investigation-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict/International_Protocol_2017_2nd_Edition.pdf(accessed: 23.03.2026) [in English].

10. Manual on Investigative Interviewing for Criminal Investigation. (2024). URL: https://www.unodc.org/res/justice-and-prison-reform/Investigativeinter/Manual_on_Investigative_Interviewing_COUNTERSIGNED.pdf (accessed: 25.03.2026) [in English].

11. Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering. (2021). URL: https://www.apt.ch/sites/default/files/publications/apt_PoEL_EN_11.pdf (accessed: 27.03.2026) [in English].

12. Boyle M., Vullierme J.-C. (2018). A brief introduction to investigative interviewing: A practitioner's guide. URL: <https://rm.coe.int/guide-to-investigative-interviewing/16808ea8f9> (accessed: 30.03.2026) [in English].

13. The Cambridge Handbook of Forensic Psychology. (2010). Investigative interviewing. Cambridge University Press, 208–214. URL: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/cambridge-handbook-of-forensic-psychology/investigative-interviewing/D83417AC896F218196FCD0D43F6B5849> (accessed: 02.04.2026) [in English].

14. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Protocol: Appendix Interview Guide. (2021). URL: https://nichdprotocol.com/the-nichd-protocol/_obj/pdf/1/English_O.pdf (accessed: 04.04.2026) [in English].

15. Kurapka V.E., Matulienė S., Bilevičiūtė E., Burda R., Davidonis R., Dereškevičius E., Juškevičiūtė J., Krikščiūnas R., Novikovienė L., Latauskienė E., Radzevičius E. (2013). Criminalistics: Tactics and Methodology: A Textbook. URL: <https://cris.mruni.eu/cris/entities/publication/e00c162c-8f82-41d5-8ffa-4f3a67742a39> (accessed: 07.04.2026) [in English].

16. Buciunas G., Gruodyte E., Salcius M. (2017). Preliminary Investigation: Procedural, Forensic, and Practical Aspects. Training Tool. 2nd ed. URL: https://www.registrucentras.lt/bylos/dokumentai/literatura/Gediminas%20Bu%C4%8Di%C5%ABnas%2C%20Edita%20Gruodyt%C4%97%2C%20Marijus%20C5%A0al%C4%8Dius_Ikiteiminis%20tyrimas_procesiniai%2C%20kriminalistiniai%20ir%20praktiniai%20aspektai.pdf (accessed: 09.04.2026) [in English].

17. Murad Code. (2025). URL: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6717fdd74a84f2359cae63f0/t/6928c4c29a338014978d087e/1764279490503/251201+Open-Source+Practitioner%27s+Guide+to+the+Murad+Code+-+English.pdf> (accessed: 11.04.2026) [in English].

18. Methodological recommendations for organizing work with children according to the “Green Room” method for investigators and juvenile police officers. (n.d.). URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/19rmVAFM6oFEGK3_DgDibxN1xaeFsuxD/view?fbclid=IwAROfVOGbkF6T19A3Z78mHvyFitlqcd6vOwKu7-dnvSMIZYOePYIEvBDpF2M (accessed: 14.04.2026) [in English].

19. Effects of Lighting on Human Psychology. (n.d.). URL: <https://www.light34.com/en/insights/effects-of-lighting-on-human-psychology-6480> (accessed: 16.04.2026) [in English].

20. Milosavljevic N. (2019). How does light regulate mood and behavioral

state? *Clocks & Sleep*, 1(3), 319–331. URL: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7445808/> (accessed: 18.04.2026) [in English].

21. What's the best microphone for your video? (n.d.). URL: <https://www.linkedin.com/advice/3/whats-best-microphone-your-video-skills-videography> (accessed: 10.04.2026) [in English].

22. Buciuнас G. (2023). Technical Specification Versus Criminal Procedure Law. Aktualni pytannia sudovoi ekspertyzy i kryminalistyky: zbirnyk materialiv Mizhnarodnoi naukovy-praktychnoi konferentsii z nahody 100-richchia Natsionalnogo naukovoho tsentru "Instytut sudovykh ekspertyz im. Zasl. prof. M.S. Bokariusa", Kharkiv, November 10, 2023. URL: <https://cris.mruni.eu/cris/entities/publication/4a018d86-21c9-4f07-b31e-83f57d795bae> (accessed: 02.04.2026) [in English].

23. Guide on Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights: Right to a Fair Trial. (n.d.). URL: https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/guide_art_6_criminal_eng (accessed: 14.04.2026) [in English].

24. The European Court of Human Rights judgment in case Al-Khawaja and Tahery v. the United Kingdom. (2011). URL: <https://hudoc.echr.coe>.

Надійшла до редакції / Received: 07.04.2026

Отримана після доопрацювання / Received after revision: 23.04.2026

Прийнято до друку / Accepted for publication: 24.04.2026

Опубліковано / Published: 29.05.2026

Фінансування: відсутнє / Funding: none.

Конфлікт інтересів: автор(и) заявляє(ють) про відсутність конфлікту інтересів / Conflict of interest: the author(s) declare no conflict of interest.

Дотримання етичних норм: дослідження виконано з дотриманням принципів академічної доброчесності / Ethical compliance: the study was conducted in accordance with the principles of academic integrity.

Дані дослідження: усі дані, необхідні для обґрунтування висновків, наведено у статті / Research data: all data necessary to substantiate the conclusions are presented in the article.